

Trigger Reports for Nonparticipating Candidates

Nonparticipating candidates must file a series of original and supplemental reports with the Secretary of State's Office, above and beyond the six period campaign finance reports, when certain dollar amount thresholds are met or exceeded. The reports are used by the CCEC to trigger equalization of funding for participating candidates running campaigns under Clean Elections.

Triggering Levels

The following chart sets forth the amounts that trigger reports during the primary and general election periods:

Office	Primary Election Spending Limits	70% / 10%	General Election Spending Limits	70% / 10%
Governor	\$453,849	\$317,694 / \$25,000	\$680,774	\$476,542 / \$25,000
Secretary of State	\$95,550	\$66,885 / \$9,555	\$143,325	\$100,328 / \$14,333
Attorney General	\$95,550	\$66,885 / \$9,555	\$143,325	\$100,328 / \$14,333
Treasurer	\$47,770	\$33,439 / \$4,777	\$71,655	\$50,159 / \$7,166
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$47,770	\$33,439 / \$4,777	\$71,655	\$50,159 / \$7,166
Corporation Commissioner	\$47,770	\$33,439 / \$4,777	\$71,655	\$50,159 / \$7,166
Mine Inspector	\$23,890	\$16,723 / \$2,389	\$35,835	\$25,085 / \$3,584
Legislature	\$11,945	\$8,362 / \$1,195	\$17,918	\$12,543 / \$1,792

When to file a trigger report

- ◆ Nonparticipating candidates must file an **original report** on the correct filing date, when in the:
 - **Primary Election Period:** Expenditures through the primary election exceed 70% of the primary election spending limit; or
 - **General Election Period:** Total contributions made to any date during the general election period, less expenditures made through the primary election, exceed 70% of the general election spending limit. A.R.S. § 16-941(B)(2).

- ◆ Nonparticipating candidates must file **supplemental reports**, which are triggered after the original report has been made, on the correct filing dates each time in the:
 - **Primary Election Period:** Expenditures exceed 10% of the original primary election spending limit or \$25,000 whichever is lower, before the general election period; or
 - **General Election Period:** Contributions less expenditures through the primary election exceed 10% of the original general election spending limit or \$25,000 whichever is lower, during the general election period. A.R.S. § 16-958(A).



Trigger Reporting Dates

Below is a chart of original and supplemental trigger reporting dates. Each time a nonparticipating candidate reaches a trigger threshold, the nonparticipating candidate is required to file a campaign finance report by the next due date listed in the chart.

Trigger Reporting Dates for Nonparticipating Candidates	
January	1
February	1
March	1
April	1
May	1
June	1
July	1, 11, 18, 25
August	1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31
September	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 19, 26
October	3, 10, 17, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31
November	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
December	<i>none</i>

Example: On May 25, 2006, a nonparticipating candidate for legislature has made expenditures totaling \$9,000. The nonparticipating candidate has now surpassed the original trigger report expenditure level of \$8,362 and must file his original trigger report by June 1, 2006. On July 8, 2006, the nonparticipating candidate has made an expenditure of \$1,500 for campaign signs. The new expenditure for signs causes the nonparticipating candidate to surpass the \$1,195 supplemental trigger level. The nonparticipating candidate must file a supplemental trigger report by July 11, 2006.



IMPORTANT NOTE

The campaign finance software, provided free of charge by the Secretary of State's Office, is programmed for the triggering events and will prompt the user when it is time to file a report. The software must be opened and used **every day** during an election cycle in order for the triggering events to occur properly. If campaign transactions are not entered into the software when they occur, a trigger reporting deadline may be inadvertently missed, causing matching funds to be withheld from participating opponents. The CCEC may initiate an enforcement action against a nonparticipating candidate who does not file trigger reports timely and correctly.